

In the canton of Bern, especially in the Emmenthal, or Valley of the river Emme, "Hub" or Huob has gradually become a frequent name for fields and there, and in the neighboring cantons especially, the round top of a hill, or place from which a good view can be obtained, is also called a Hub. A site on the Riesberg, about one mile west from Neftenbach, is still called the Hub. Very likely the Hubers of the text obtained this family name because of their residence.

*Early Swiss Emigration.* For many centuries the soil of Switzerland was not fertile enough to support its increasing population. Thus many of the young males were forced to look abroad for work and food; for instance, serving as lansquenets in foreign armies. But, about the middle fifties of the 17th century, bad harvests caused such a famine in Switzerland that an emigration, the so called "reislaufen" at first but temporary, became permanent. Many of the Swiss who left their country and accepted seasonal work in the neighbouring parts of Germany along the Rhine, (Alsatia, Swabia, the margravate of Baden, Wurttemberg and the Palatinate), settled down, married, and never again returned to Switzerland.

This emigration movement could not be checked, not even by the most severe decrees, which the cantonal authorities issued one after the other, and its importance is often evidenced in contemporaneous parish reports of the canton of Zürich. There the ministers were always emphasizing the failure of crops as reason for the "reislaufen", or emigration, frequently giving quite large lists of parishioners who had moved away.

With due consideration of such reliable documents, it cannot be maintained that religious persecution, so often made responsible for this emigration, was its motivating force. Religious difficulties were, if at all, of rather minor importance, as many Protestants migrating to Catholic communities were there soon converted, just as people moving from Catholic cantons to Protestant ones easily accepted the Protestant faith. Scarcely any difference was made between Lutherans and Calvinists; thus Calvinist Hubers from Neftenbach in canton Zürich became Lutherans after their emigration to Trippstadt in the Palatinate.

*Aesch, the Cradle of Hubers of the text.* It is a country town 1400 feet above sea level on the south-east side of the